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TEAM-UP

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MARVEL TEAM-UP™

FEATURING

THE HUMAN TORCH™

AND IRON MAN®

THIS IS
INFINITUS
--THE REINCARNATED
MAN!

HE
LIVES
FOREVER!

THIS IS IRON MAN! IF HE DIES--
HE STAYS DEAD!



STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE HUMAN TORCH and IRON MAN TOGETHER!!

GERRY CONWAY, JIM MOONEY, VINCE COLLETTA, JOHN COSTANZA, letterer / ROY THOMAS AUTHOR ARTIST INKER JANICE COHEN, COLORIST EDITOR

DETROIT, MICHIGAN: NOT NECESSARILY A NAME TO CONJURE WITH, BUT STILL IMPRESSIVE.

SITTING ON THE BANKS OF THE DETROIT RIVER, IT CONNECTS WITH LAKE ST. CLAIR AND LAKE ERIE-- FORMING A LINK IN THE ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY, MAKING IT ONE OF THE MAIN GATES TO CANADA IN NORTH-MIDWEST AMERICA...

BUT THAT'S NOT WHY DETROIT IS KNOWN, OF COURSE. IN FACT, MOST PEOPLE AREN'T REALLY SURE EXACTLY WHERE DETROIT IS LOCATED...

THOUGH THEY DO KNOW ONE THING:

"DETROIT IS WHERE THEY MAKE THE CARS."

AND AMONG OTHER THINGS... JOHNNY STORM, ALIAS THE HUMAN TORCH, IS A POSITIVE BUG ABOUT CARS!

(AND IF THAT ISN'T ABOUT THE SNEAKIEST WAY OF EASING YOU INTO AN ACTION-PACKED EXTRAVAGANZA-- WE DON'T KNOW WHAT IS!)

BEWARE
THE
COMING
OF...

INFINITUS!

OR

HOW CAN YOU STOP
THE REINCARNATED MAN?

BUT, EVEN AN AVID AUTO-PHILE HAS CERTAIN SENSIBILITIES, AND SO...

PHEW! I'VE HEARD OF SMOG-- BUT THIS IS A REGULAR OVER-KILL--

--AND I DO MEAN "KILL"!
I'M BEGINNING TO THINK I SHOULD HAVE STAYED AT THE BAXTER BUILDING.

MAYBE YOU SHOULD HAVE, TORCH... IF YOU'RE THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR WHO'S ANSWERING TONY STARK'S MAYDAY!

STARK EXPECTED REED RICHARDS...



WHAT YOU LIKE ISN'T RELEVANT, STORM.

TONY STARK SENT A MESSAGE TO THE ENTIRE FF-- AN URGENT MESSAGE. HE DIDN'T...



WHOA, FRIEND. I GUESS WE'RE BOTH HOT-TEMPERED TODAY...

LET'S BURY THE HATCHET --OKAY?



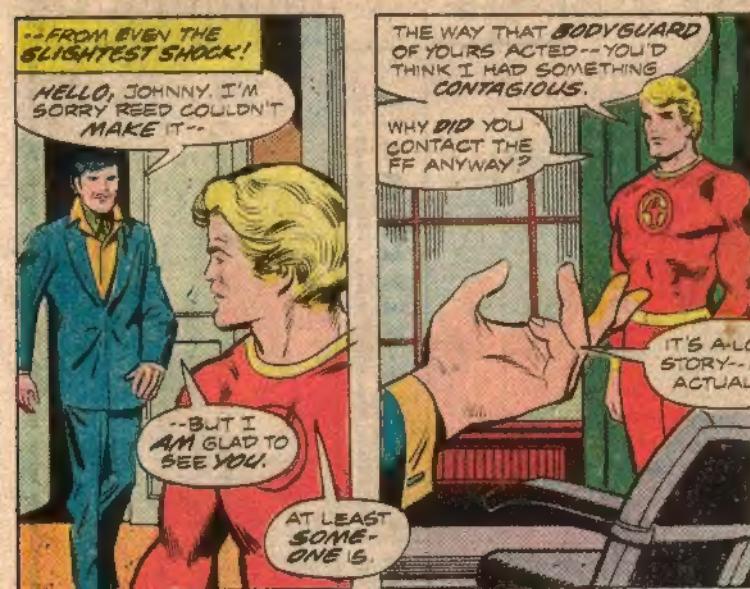
SOON, INSIDE THE AIR-CONDITIONED HALLS OF STARK INDUSTRIES ADMINISTRATION BUILDINGS...



--I JUST HOPE HE'LL BE A LOT HAPPIER TO SEE YOU THAN I AM.



YOU KNOW SOMETHING, IRON MAN? YOU'RE A REGULAR-



TAKE A SEAT, JOHNNY. WHAT I'M
ABOUT TO SHOW YOU IS A COMPI-
LATION OF VARIOUS VIDEO-TAPES
MADE BY SEVERAL NEWS
PROGRAMS.

PERHAPS YOU'VE HEARD
ABOUT THE SO-CALLED
"TECHNO-MURDERS"--?

A LITTLE.
WHAT ABOUT
THEM?

"IT STARTED ALMOST A MONTH
AGO-- WHEN A FOREMAN AT A
CONSTRUCTION SITE WAS BURIED
UNDER A STREAM OF HOT
CEMENT--

"THE NEXT
PERSON TO
DIE WAS A
GIRL--

--ELECTROCUTED
BY A WASHING
MACHINE.

"AFTER THAT, THERE WAS A WHOLE RASH
OF APPARENTLY ACCIDENTAL DEATHS--
ALL CAUSED BY SOME TECHNOLOGICAL
FAILURE--

"SUCH AS A LIVE ELECTRICAL
WIRE-- OR A RUNAWAY
STEAM-ROLLER.

"I SAY 'ACCIDENTAL,' BUT
THERE'S EVIDENCE THAT
THE DEATHS WERE ANY-
THING BUT ACCIDENTAL.

"WHAT YOU'RE SEEING
NOW IS A TAPE FROM
ONE OF STARK INDUS-
TRIES' VIDEO-
RECORDERS...

"IT WAS MADE YESTERDAY,
AS I AND MY ASSISTANT
INSPECTED A NEW
BUILDING IN OUR
COMPLEX...

"NEITHER OF US SAW
THIS MAN-- BUT THE
CAMERA DID.

"AN
ALARM
WENT OFF
IN OUR
MAIN
OFFICE--

--BUT WE
DON'T HEAR IT.

"IN ANOTHER THIRTY SECONDS,
THE FACTORY GUARDS
WOULD HAVE ARRIVED
ON THE SCENE--

--BUT WE DIDN'T
HAVE ANOTHER
THIRTY SECONDS--

"--WE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TEN."

"RODGERS SAVED MY LIFE."



"WELL, WELL--IF IT ISN'T THE TIN WOODSMAN HIMSELF!"

"HOW'D HE GET INVOLVED?"



"IRON MAN'S MY BODYGUARD, JOHNNY--REMEMBER?"



"GIVE HIM A CHANCE, STORM. THIS COSTUMED MAN HAD A HEAT WEAPON--WITH A RAY STRONG ENOUGH TO MELT IRON MAN'S ARMOR....!"



"I'M PROUD TO SAY OLD SHELL-HEAD DIDN'T GIVE UP...HE KEPT RIGHT ON COMING, NO MATTER WHAT."

"TONY STARK DOESN'T REPLY."

"AMAZING..."

"IT SEEMS I'LL HAVE TO USE A HIGHER HEAT-SETTING TO HALT YOU, IRON MAN--"

--BUT HALT YOU I WILL--





--BUT I'VE GOT A GRUDGE
TO SETTLE WITH A CERTAIN
ANIMATED GARBAGE CAN--

--AND IF SETTING IT MEANS
I HAVE TO FIND INFINITUS--

--THEN,
FRIENDS,
THAT'S
WHAT I'M
GOING TO
DO!

THAT RAY
VANISHED
ALMOST AS
SOON AS
I STARTED
AFTER IT--

--BUT
WHO CARES
ABOUT THE
RAY--

--WHEN I'VE FOUND
THE CLOWN
BEHIND IT!

HEY,
DOWN
THERE!

WHAT'S
YOUR
HURRY?

I'D LIKE
TO HAVE A
LITTLE TALK
WITH Y--

YEEOUGH!!

FOOM!

LISTEN, I
JUST WANT TO
TALK, MISTER.
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO--

WAITASECOND,
WILL YOU?

ONLY TO BE HALF-
BURIED BENEATH A
QUARTER OF A TON
OF AVALANCHING
STONE!

--THEN THE
PAIN SMELLS
UP--

BELATEDLY JOHNNY
UNDERSTANDS THAT
THE HEAT-RAY HAS
BEEN AIMED ABOVE
HIM--! DESPERATELY,
HE TRIES TO DODGE
ASIDE--

STUNNED, HE STARES
GROGGILY AT THE
MAN RUNNING AWAY
FROM HIM--

--AND THE
DARKNESS
CRASHES IN.

WHEN THE DARKNESS FADES, IT'S ONLY MINUTES--PERHAPS INSTANTS--LATER; BUT FOR JOHNNY STORM, IT SEEMS AS THOUGH A MILLENIUM HAS PASSED... LEAVING HIM SORE, DRAINED... AND ANGRY...

HANG TIGHT, YOUNGSTER.

MY REPULSOR RAYS WILL HAVE YOU OUT OF THERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.

DID HE GET AWAY? THE MAN WHO CALLS HIMSELF INFINITUS?

I'M AFRAID SO

THERE ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?



--SO YOU CAN STOP PRETENDING ALL THIS CONCERN.

I STILL HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THAT CRACK YOU MADE...

WHICH ONE? ABOUT "HALF GROWN TEENAGERS" OR STARK BEING "HAPPIER TO SEE YOU THAN I AM"?

BOTH, METAL-BRAIN.

MY WHAT--?

MAYBE YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, STORM--PEOPLE HAVE DIED BECAUSE OF THIS INFINITUS CHARACTER.

YOU MAY NOT THINK THAT'S IMPORTANT...

--BUT FRANKLY, I DO.



DURING THE COURSE OF HIS CAREER AS A PSYCHIATRIC COUNSELOR, DR. FRANCIS WILLIAM MAXWELL HAS SEEN HIS SHARE OF FREAKS--

--BUT HE'S NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE JOHNNY STORM-- EXCEPT ON THE SIX O'CLOCK NEWS, OF COURSE--

--AND WHO EXPECTS THE NEWS TO BE TRUE?

WHICH IS WHY, EVEN AFTER THE TORCH HAS EXPLAINED HIS PROBLEM, DR. MAXWELL TAKES HIS TIME PREPARING AN ANSWER.

HE SIMPLY WANTS TO MAKE SURE THAT WHAT'S HAPPENING IS REAL.

THE KIND OF DELUSION YOU DESCRIBE IS NOT UNCOMMON, MR -- AH-- STORM...

IN FACT, IT'S CLASSIC...

FEELINGS OF FRUSTRATION--PERSECUTION--ALIENATION--

YES... WELL...

--ALL OF THESE EMOTIONS MAY LEAD TO A MAJOR IDENTITY CRISIS-- ONE WHICH COULD PRODUCE THE EFFECT YOU SUGGEST.

BUT, PLEASE, COULD YOU EXPLAIN WHERE--

LATER, SIR.

RIGHT NOW I NEED A SECOND OPINION--

--AT THE LIBRARY!

WHEN JOHNNY STORM BURNS A FIRE-TRAIL ACROSS THE DUSTY DETROIT SKYLINE, DEEP WITHIN THE SUB-STRUCTURE OF STARK INDUSTRIES' ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX, A HIDDEN LAB HUMS WITH ELECTRICAL ACTIVITY...

THE MAN SEATED AT THIS WELL-LIT WORKBENCH IS TENSE, BUT HIS ANXIETY ISN'T CAUSED BY ANY PERSONAL APPREHENSION...

APPARENTLY, INFINITUS BELIEVES HE'S A REINCARNATED EGYPTIAN KING...

--AND THAT I, AND THOSE OTHER MEN AND WOMEN HE'S KILLED-- ARE HIS ENEMIES...

THE REALLY ODD PART OF IT IS...

--THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN PROVE HE'S WRONG.

PERHAPS MEN DO LIVE AGAIN AND AGAIN OVER AND OVER-- THROUGHOUT TIME

REGARDLESS OF WHAT ONE MIGHT SUPPOSE, TONY STARK ISN'T CONCERNED FOR HIMSELF. NO, HE'S WORRIED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE FUTURE VICTIMS OF THE MAD-MAN CALLED INFINITUS...

THAT'S WHAT MAKES TONY STARK--A HERO.

--ALSO REINCARNATED FROM A PREVIOUS LIFE

ST... I CAN'T LET MYSELF GET INVOLVED WITH INFINITUS' MOTIVES

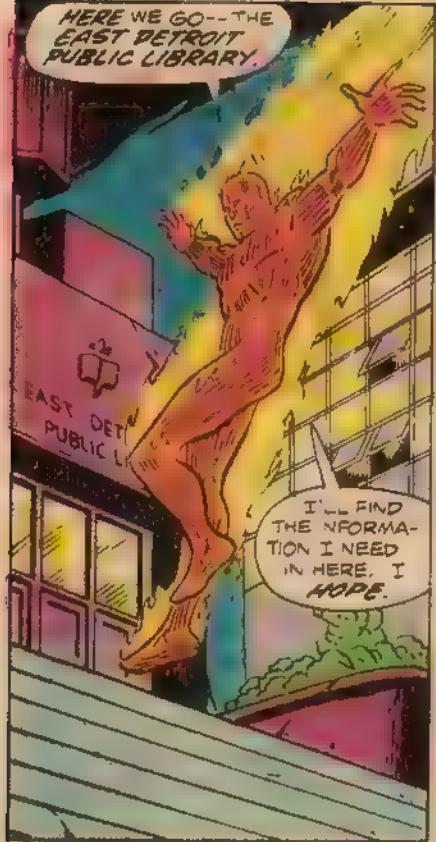
MY JOB IS TO FIND HIM...

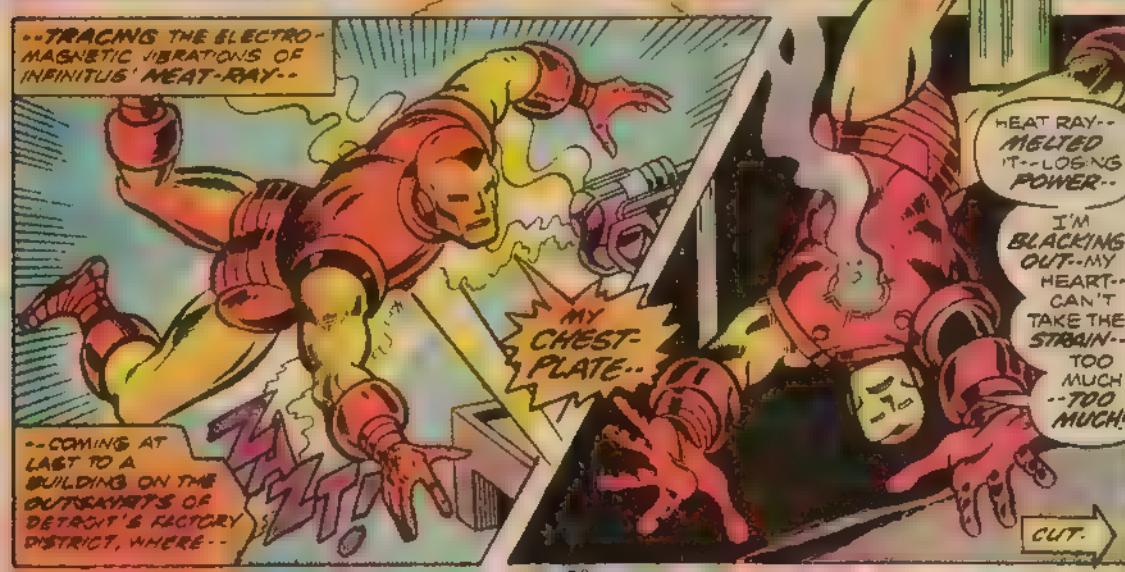
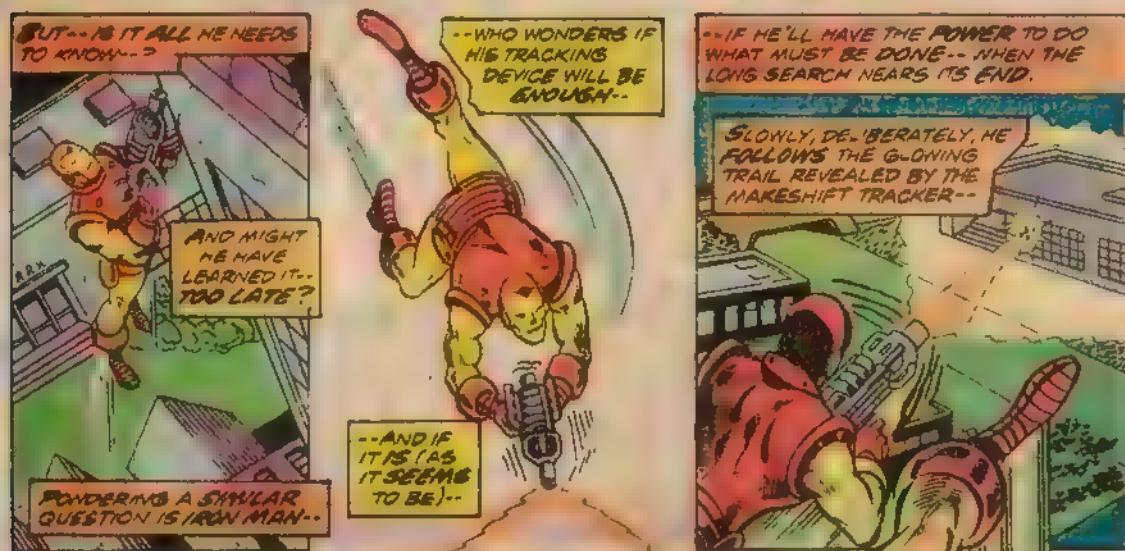
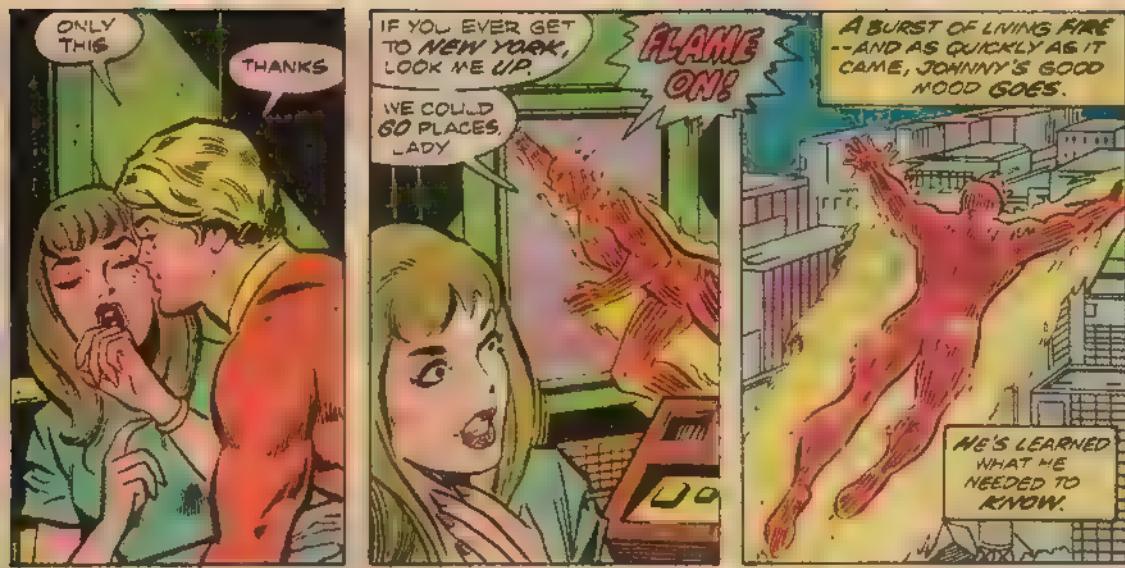
--AND WITH THIS MODIFIED ELECTROMAGNETIC TRACKING DEVICE--

--I JUST MIGHT BE ABLE TO PULL THAT JOB OFF!

FOO, THIS IS CERTAINLY THE MOST BIZARRE CASE OF REVENGE I'VE EVER HEARD OF...

--AND NO LESS DEADLY BECAUSE OF ITS ODDITY'





--TO A SCENE WHICH OCCURRED SOME THIRTEEN MINUTES AGO

THE STARK INDUSTRIES LAB WHERE TONY STARK WAS ALMOST KILLED BY INFINITUS-- BUT IT'S JUST POSSIBLE YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE THE PEOPLE HAVING A SHORT MEMORY, LIKE MOST OF US!

YOU PROBABLY RECOGNIZE THE PLACE--

THE STARK INDUSTRIES LAB WHERE TONY STARK WAS ALMOST KILLED BY INFINITUS-- BUT IT'S JUST POSSIBLE YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE THE PEOPLE HAVING A SHORT MEMORY, LIKE MOST OF US!

LET'S SEE, THERE'S THAT FLAME-GUY, THE HUMAN TORCH, AND THAT ASSISTANT OF STARK'S, NAME OF RODGERS.

WONDER WHAT JOHNNY WANTS WITH HIM?

RODGERS! MIND IF I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU?

WHAT ON EARTH --OH, IT'S YOU, MR. STORM.

IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO-- JUST NAME IT.



I DID SOME CHECKING ON THAT INFINITUS CHARACTER--

--JUST ON THE OFF-CHANCE THERE REALLY WAS AN EGYPTIAN KING NAMED AMENEMHET III, LORD OF THE 11TH DYNASTY--



AND?

AND THERE WAS AN AMENEMHET III-- BUT HE WAS A KING OF THE 12TH DYNASTY, NOT THE 11TH.

THE REAL AMENEMHET III WOULDN'T HAVE MADE A MISTAKE LIKE THAT.

--AND NEITHER WOULD A REAL CRACKPOT. CRACKPOTS ARE STICKLERS FOR DETAIL.

WHICH MEANS?

LET ME ASK YOU, RODGERS-- HAVE YOU GOT ANY ENEMIES?

ANYBODY WHO'D LIKE TO SEE YOU-- KILLED?

THE MAN NAMED RODGERS PALES WHICH IS OUR CUE TO GET

--BACK TO THE SCENE WE LEFT A PAGE AGO, AS--

GOT YOU!!

TORCH!

YOU--
HERE? HOW--

EASY, FRIEND, LET'S GET YOU BACK TO EARTH BEFORE I START ANY LONG-WINDED EXPLANATIONS.

RODGERS

KNOWS MORE ABOUT IT THAN I DO ANYWAY--EVEN IF I DID FIGURE THE WHOLE THING OUT--

--ON MY OWN I MIGHT ADD.

YOU TELL HIM,
RODGERS

BE SURE TO USE PLENTY OF MONOSYLLABLES-- SO HELL UNDERSTAND.

MEANWHILE, I'LL SEE TO INFINITUS--

THAT'S RIGHT,
IRON MAN. MR.
STORM DEDUCED
EVERYTHING.

--THE SO-CALLED REINCARNATED MAN!

FROOM

YOU IT ISN'T POSSIBLE--

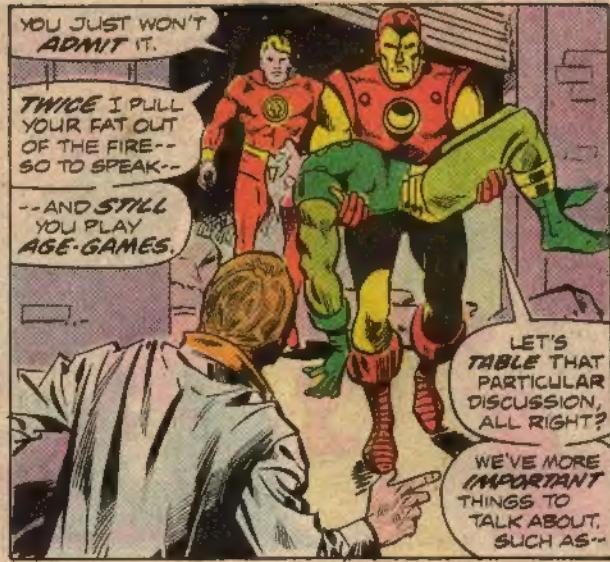
--IT CAN'T BE POSSIBLE!

FELLA, THAT ATTITUDE'S GOING TO GET YOU NOWHERE!

NOWHERE--
EXCEPT JAIL!







NEXT ISSUE!
OUR WALL-CRAWLING
WONDER RETURNS
IN A SENSES-
STUNNING STORY
ENTITLED...

FALCON IN A WEB!

IT'S THE ONE YOU'VE BEEN
WAITING FOR!